



NORTH CAROLINA VETERANS

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

SECRETARY WILLIAM DAUGHTRIDGE

How can we better serve North Carolina's veterans?

800,000 veterans represent more than just a large percentage of our population. They are names, faces, stories, heartbreaks and triumphs in the defense of our nation. Veterans are committed patriots that have willingly chosen to sacrifice for their fellow citizens. "We the people" have a sacred trust to honor, respect and care for these heroes.

The North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs (NCDVA), under guidance from the North Carolina Secretary of Administration, William Daughtridge, and North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory has undertaken the important mission of making North Carolina "The State of Choice for Veterans."

In accordance with this mission, NCDVA has launched an agency-wide effort to be more transparent, data driven and accountable to the veterans, family members and citizens of the State of North Carolina.

The goal of this inaugural NCDVA Annual Report, and the editions that will follow, is to better understand and track the performance and impact of the veteran population and the Federal, State, County and Volunteer organizations that support them in our state. Going forward, NCDVA will work harder to streamline processes and maximize efficiencies with all partners that support our treasured veterans.

In that spirit of cooperation, no report on veterans would be complete without acknowledging and thanking our partners at the Veterans Administration (VA), the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, the North Carolina Department of Commerce, the North Carolina Department of Public Safety including the Governor's Crime Control Commission which has recently established the state's first "Veterans Court" and the 12,000 men and women of the North Carolina National Guard.

Special mention must also be given to the Volunteer Veteran Service Organizations and Non-profit Organizations that have been tending to our veterans in ways that no one else can: the Disabled American Veterans, the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, AmVets, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Vietnam Veterans of America, National Association of Black Veterans, Marine Corps League, Fleet Reserve Association, Military Officers of America Association, NC National Guard Association, North Carolina's myriad County Veteran Service Officers and all the other concerned citizens groups, like the Elks, that give generously of their time and treasure to try and improve the lives of our veterans.

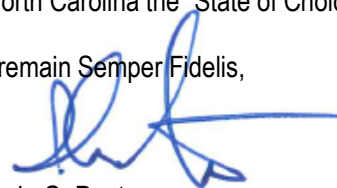
Thank You, from the bottom of our hearts.

"How can we serve our veterans better?" can only be answered when we have an accurate picture of where we stand given the data available. This 2013 NCDVA Annual Report is our first effort to begin benchmarking our performance and I welcome your feedback and recommendations to make this report more useful.

The initial pages of this report outline the federal investment made by the VA on a per-county and per-congressional district basis. The pages that follow give an overview of NCDVA and its performance. Future editions will give a yearly update and track changes and trends but this inaugural edition will give a snapshot of the past ten years.

Caring for our warriors is personal for me so please, share your feedback as we work together to make North Carolina the "State of Choice for Veterans."

I remain Semper Fidelis,

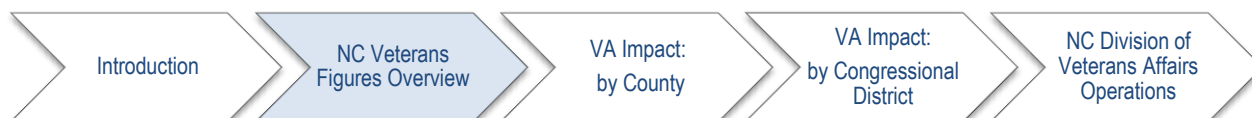


Ilario G. Pantano

Director

North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs

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2012 NC VETERAN POPULATION

Ref(1,3, 4,6,9, 10 and 14)

771,654

National Rank

NC ranks 9th

Veterans as % of NC state population (per-capita)

7.92%

NC ranks 25th

NC Women Veteran population (as of 2009)

68,380

NC ranks 6th

Women Veterans as % of NC Veteran Population

8.8%

Veteran-related Federal Expenditures in NC \$6.36 Billion

Ref (6,7,8,9 and 11)

Total VA Expenditure FY 2012

Ref (6,7,8,9 and 11)

\$4.20B

NC ranks 6th

VA Compensation and Pension (Direct-to-Vet)

\$2.29B

NC ranks 4th

VA Construction

\$20.70M

NC ranks 21st

VA Education/Voc./Employ

\$344.21M

NC ranks 7th

VA Gen. OPS Exp.

\$93.66M

NC ranks 13th

VA Insurance/Indemnities

\$48.89M

NC ranks 10th

VA Medical Care

\$1.40B

NC ranks 9th

Total DoD Military Retiree Pay FY 2012

Ref (1, 2, 6 and 7)

\$2.16B

NC ranks 5th

Total NC Military Retirees

89, 064

NC ranks 6th

Retiree % of Total Veteran Population in NC

11.54%

SOURCES:

(1) Department of Veterans Affairs State Summary- Office of Public Affairs http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/factsheets/ss_northcarolina.pdf

(2) US Department of Veterans Affairs- Veterans Benefits Administration http://www.vba.va.gov/REPORTS/abr/2012_abr.pdf

(3) Labor and Economics Analysis Division – The Economic Impact of the Military

[http://www.nccommerce.com/Portals/47/Publications/Industry%20Reports/The%20Economic%20Impact%20of%20the%20Military%20on%20North%20Carolina%20\(3\).pdf](http://www.nccommerce.com/Portals/47/Publications/Industry%20Reports/The%20Economic%20Impact%20of%20the%20Military%20on%20North%20Carolina%20(3).pdf)

(4) VetPop2011 through VA Office of the Actuary: http://www1.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran_Population.asp

**Other key inputs to the VetPop2011 model are data from Veterans Affairs, the American Community Survey, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Social Security Administration.

(5) MOAA State by State Report Card 2012 <http://www.moaa.org/statereport>

(6) VA Expenditure GDX Reports FY 2012 <http://www.va.gov/vetdata/expenditures.asp>

(7) DOD Statistical Report on the Military Retirement System -FY 2012 <http://actuary.defense.gov/Portals/15/Documents/statbook12.pdf>

(8) DOD Annual Benefits Report 2013 http://www.vba.va.gov/REPORTS/abr/2012_abr.pdf

(9) Military Economy in North Carolina <http://www.nccommerce.com/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=pPtAhFn4gM%3D&tabid=4017&mid=9821>

Presented by the North Carolina Military Business Center to NC Military Affairs Commission

(10) NC Military Foot Print <http://www.nccommerce.com/Portals/0/Research/Industry%20Reports/North%20Carolinas%20Military%20Footprint.pdf>

(11) NC Division of Veterans Affairs Report 2011-2012

<http://www.ncleg.net/documents/sites/committees/house2013-94/02-14-13%20Meeting/Homeland%20Sec%20Mil%20Vet%20Affairs%202-14-2013.pdf>

(12) US Census Populations <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/index.html>

(13) Department of Veterans Affairs, Winston-Salem Regional Office, Completed Claim Count

(14) Center for Women Veterans: Statistics <http://www.va.gov/womenvet/statistics.asp>

NORTH CAROLINA 2012 VA EXPENDITURES, by County (Expenditures in \$000s)

County	Veteran Population*	Total Expenditure	Compensation & Pension	Construction	Education & Rehab (Jobs)	General Operating Expenses	Insurance & Indemnities	Medical Care	Unique Patients**
ALAMANCE	11,428	\$53,362	\$24,792		\$2,134		\$666	\$25,770	2,426
ALEXANDER	2,873	\$12,316	\$6,424		\$363		\$95	\$5,435	865
ALLEGHANY	1,048	\$4,145	\$2,655		\$107		\$120	\$1,264	286
ANSON	1,694	\$9,625	\$4,322		\$293		\$31	\$4,979	517
ASHE	2,057	\$10,662	\$6,714		\$258		\$133	\$3,557	647
AVERY	1,210	\$7,892	\$3,559		\$263		\$129	\$3,942	475
BEAUFORT	4,056	\$22,479	\$14,371		\$886		\$381	\$6,841	1,050
BERTIE	1,072	\$6,141	\$3,300		\$136		\$62	\$2,643	252
BLADEN	3,086	\$15,348	\$8,753		\$495		\$55	\$6,044	756
BRUNSWICK	13,243	\$51,921	\$35,505		\$2,105		\$640	\$13,670	2,919
BUNCOMBE	20,337	\$146,048	\$52,048	\$1,541	\$5,166	\$7,861	\$1,590	\$77,841	7,043
BURKE	7,320	\$39,248	\$19,116		\$915		\$395	\$18,821	2,455
CABARRUS	13,133	\$61,646	\$31,364		\$4,480		\$632	\$25,170	3,847
CALDWELL	6,424	\$31,655	\$16,663		\$966		\$256	\$13,771	2,082
CAMDEN	1,020	\$6,917	\$4,166		\$1,517		\$91	\$1,143	173
CARTERET	8,532	\$47,118	\$30,698		\$2,472		\$1,064	\$12,884	2,216
CASWELL	1,958	\$7,251	\$3,368		\$218		\$118	\$3,547	479
CATAWBA	11,918	\$55,581	\$28,361		\$2,592		\$818	\$23,810	3,911
CHATHAM	6,150	\$15,353	\$7,320		\$539		\$299	\$7,195	895
CHEROKEE	2,824	\$15,248	\$8,560		\$358		\$133	\$6,196	976
CHOWAN	1,579	\$6,329	\$3,551		\$352		\$20	\$2,406	247
CLAY	1,126	\$6,181	\$3,155		\$167		\$107	\$2,752	391
CLEVELAND	7,682	\$41,395	\$22,905		\$1,844		\$418	\$16,228	2,310
COLUMBUS	4,002	\$27,409	\$16,723		\$912		\$158	\$9,616	1,258
CRAVEN	13,361	\$77,069	\$53,504		\$8,791	\$329	\$899	\$13,546	2,249
CUMBERLAND	46,114	\$469,888	\$302,863		\$66,441	\$2,665	\$3,081	\$94,838	16,907
CURRITUCK	3,130	\$13,268	\$8,563		\$2,352		\$304	\$2,050	383
DARE	3,443	\$8,520	\$5,593		\$361		\$280	\$2,287	392
DAVIDSON	13,801	\$46,191	\$20,052		\$1,617		\$519	\$24,003	3,542
DAVIE	3,297	\$14,717	\$7,250		\$609		\$107	\$6,751	963
DUPLIN	3,498	\$22,447	\$14,637		\$1,174		\$196	\$6,440	980
DURHAM	16,011	\$143,701	\$43,532	\$5,688	\$6,844	\$8,405	\$817	\$78,414	4,571
EDGECOMBE	3,411	\$24,539	\$14,347		\$1,154		\$156	\$8,881	983
FORSYTH	26,049	\$169,574	\$59,426	\$53	\$7,715	\$61,102	\$1,522	\$39,756	6,631
FRANKLIN	4,803	\$20,620	\$10,487		\$830		\$171	\$9,133	963
GASTON	17,070	\$70,511	\$38,149		\$4,337		\$769	\$27,255	4,524
GATES	1,118	\$5,062	\$3,289		\$601		\$138	\$1,033	198
GRAHAM	731	\$3,952	\$1,987		\$50		\$10	\$1,905	220
GRANVILLE	4,871	\$20,844	\$9,784		\$952		\$164	\$9,944	961
GREENE	1,297	\$5,883	\$3,764		\$177		\$53	\$1,888	313
GUILFORD	34,020	\$139,242	\$74,784		\$12,121		\$2,721	\$49,616	7,194
HALIFAX	3,817	\$22,920	\$14,359		\$677		\$368	\$7,516	971
HARNETT	13,520	\$66,562	\$36,401		\$9,010		\$418	\$20,733	3,277
HAYWOOD	6,702	\$33,607	\$17,780		\$1,054		\$586	\$14,188	1,904
HENDERSON	11,594	\$44,648	\$22,640		\$1,446		\$751	\$19,811	2,760
HERTFORD	1,882	\$9,508	\$5,893		\$386		\$264	\$2,966	341
HOKE	5,747	\$44,583	\$26,270		\$8,486		\$259	\$9,567	1,853
HYDE	420	\$2,515	\$1,849		\$77		\$1	\$588	71
IREDELL	12,112	\$52,372	\$25,664		\$4,108		\$431	\$22,169	3,514
JACKSON	3,097	\$16,415	\$9,122		\$795		\$145	\$6,353	893
NC Totals	771,654	\$4,193,637	\$2,285,260	\$20,702	\$344,205	\$93,656	\$48,884	\$1,400,930	197,386

NORTH CAROLINA 2012 VA EXPENDITURES, by County contd. (Expenditures in \$000s)

County	Veteran Population*	Total Expenditure	Compensation & Pension	Construction	Education & Rehab (Jobs)	General Operating Expenses	Insurance & Indemnities	Medical Care	Unique Patients**
JOHNSTON	13,784	\$52,618	\$27,571		\$3,681		\$748	\$20,617	2,798
JONES	1,138	\$10,239	\$7,624		\$870		\$45	\$1,700	300
LEE	4,246	\$37,744	\$24,314		\$5,660		\$256	\$7,513	1,035
LENOIR	4,714	\$33,627	\$23,002		\$1,473		\$270	\$8,883	1,332
LINCOLN	6,320	\$24,366	\$11,924		\$1,402		\$247	\$10,793	1,789
MCDOWELL	3,620	\$29,658	\$13,520		\$643		\$107	\$15,389	1,638
MACON	3,624	\$19,342	\$10,190		\$296		\$320	\$8,537	1,294
MADISON	1,479	\$9,539	\$4,799		\$394		\$36	\$4,310	536
MARTIN	1,761	\$11,729	\$7,299		\$389		\$66	\$3,974	543
MECKLENBURG	57,699	\$225,778	\$111,967		\$28,907		\$3,836	\$81,068	13,503
MITCHELL	1,204	\$7,739	\$3,692		\$137		\$18	\$3,892	464
MONTGOMERY	2,050	\$10,978	\$6,328		\$305		\$102	\$4,243	651
MOORE	10,380	\$42,362	\$27,349		\$4,143		\$1,418	\$9,452	1,941
NASH	8,323	\$37,102	\$23,255		\$1,704		\$305	\$11,837	1,615
NEW HANOVER	17,937	\$74,398	\$46,711		\$9,541		\$1,338	\$16,695	3,457
NORTHAMPTON	1,564	\$9,192	\$4,684		\$150		\$40	\$4,318	395
ONslow	24,560	\$211,464	\$151,245		\$34,799		\$1,915	\$23,505	5,339
ORANGE	6,584	\$28,010	\$11,965		\$2,846		\$1,092	\$12,107	1,220
PAMLICO	1,386	\$8,803	\$4,826		\$233		\$540	\$3,203	338
PASQUOTANK	4,605	\$21,637	\$13,117		\$3,819		\$476	\$4,225	720
PENDER	5,979	\$23,936	\$15,114		\$1,962		\$295	\$6,565	1,087
PERQUIMANS	1,604	\$6,524	\$4,116		\$646		\$7	\$1,755	251
PERSON	3,018	\$17,097	\$8,701		\$595		\$88	\$7,714	826
PITT	10,749	\$58,938	\$38,225		\$5,827		\$763	\$14,123	2,381
POLK	2,133	\$9,122	\$5,261		\$183		\$177	\$3,501	535
RANDOLPH	11,122	\$42,272	\$21,280		\$1,711		\$336	\$18,945	2,583
RICHMOND	3,658	\$29,617	\$17,776		\$1,109		\$149	\$10,584	1,434
ROBESON	8,050	\$61,657	\$37,145		\$4,054		\$659	\$19,798	2,824
ROCKINGHAM	8,083	\$29,064	\$17,137		\$1,180		\$204	\$10,543	1,753
ROWAN	12,116	\$115,857	\$32,857	\$12,891	\$2,271	\$13,003	\$502	\$54,334	4,962
RUTHERFORD	5,546	\$36,494	\$17,404		\$843		\$341	\$17,906	2,071
SAMPSON	3,918	\$30,506	\$18,189		\$926		\$203	\$11,189	1,496
SCOTLAND	2,945	\$16,399	\$9,722		\$560		\$246	\$5,872	878
STANLY	4,709	\$18,815	\$9,569		\$772		\$120	\$8,354	1,285
STOKES	3,961	\$14,366	\$7,212		\$428		\$96	\$6,629	980
SURRY	4,720	\$28,696	\$17,596		\$767		\$70	\$10,262	1,863
SWAIN	1,275	\$7,910	\$4,286		\$186		\$25	\$3,414	362
TRANSYLVANIA	3,447	\$13,939	\$7,198		\$390		\$156	\$6,194	854
TYRRELL	430	\$908	\$627		\$109			\$171	57
UNION	13,295	\$44,231	\$25,244		\$3,197		\$760	\$15,030	2,854
VANCE	2,463	\$20,282	\$10,212		\$622		\$67	\$9,381	920
WAKE	58,503	\$227,294	\$122,544	\$529	\$30,313	\$178	\$4,887	\$68,844	9,740
WARREN	1,624	\$10,135	\$4,818		\$220		\$190	\$4,906	513
WASHINGTON	951	\$5,482	\$3,357		\$155		\$156	\$1,814	226
WATAUGA	2,694	\$13,499	\$6,046		\$1,742		\$249	\$5,462	786
WAYNE	12,885	\$76,636	\$52,408		\$7,701		\$945	\$15,582	2,600
WILKES	4,277	\$22,763	\$12,929		\$550		\$188	\$9,095	1,555
WILSON	5,635	\$31,557	\$19,443		\$1,581		\$196	\$10,336	1,327
YADKIN	2,642	\$11,552	\$6,438		\$420		\$72	\$4,621	870
YANCEY	1,555	\$11,340	\$6,645		\$87		\$25	\$4,583	571
NC Totals	771,654	\$4,193,637	\$2,285,260	\$20,702	\$344,205	\$93,656	\$48,884	\$1,400,930	197,386

NORTH CAROLINA 2012 VA EXPENDITURES, by Congressional District (Expenditures in \$000s)

Congressional District	Veteran Population*	Total Expenditure	Compensation & Pension	Construction	Education & Rehab (Jobs)	General Operating Expenses	Insurance & Indemnities	Medical Care	Unique Patients**
CONG. DIST (NC-01)	50,525	\$318,388	\$198,348		\$22,473	\$328	\$3,691	\$93,547	12,136
CONG. DIST (NC-02)	66,986	\$436,024	\$256,601	\$529	\$49,556	\$2,665	\$3,287	\$123,387	17,637
CONG. DIST (NC-03)	79,597	\$479,562	\$327,772		\$57,208	\$1	\$6,308	\$88,273	15,887
CONG. DIST (NC-04)	51,380	\$251,959	\$98,290	\$5,688	\$19,896	\$8,428	\$4,054	\$115,603	9,578
CONG. DIST (NC-05)	52,162	\$221,870	\$120,211	\$28	\$11,690		\$2,505	\$87,436	14,958
CONG. DIST (NC-06)	60,626	\$226,959	\$113,556	\$568	\$13,084		\$3,852	\$95,899	13,583
CONG. DIST (NC-07)	66,231	\$399,065	\$252,968		\$36,576	\$113	\$4,176	\$105,231	17,473
CONG. DIST (NC-08)	64,035	\$430,277	\$250,340	\$6,306	\$47,988		\$3,560	\$122,084	20,522
CONG. DIST (NC-09)	59,305	\$190,416	\$98,905		\$18,202		\$4,271	\$69,039	12,683
CONG. DIST (NC-10)	54,055	\$260,021	\$130,862	\$2,018	\$10,749		\$2,851	\$113,540	16,883
CONG. DIST (NC-11)	65,787	\$382,707	\$174,699	\$1,541	\$11,580	\$7,861	\$4,330	\$182,696	20,831
CONG. DIST (NC-12)	48,064	\$362,123	\$138,315	\$4,025	\$23,441	\$74,105	\$2,186	\$120,051	14,489
CONG. DIST (NC-13)	52,902	\$234,267	\$124,393		\$21,762	\$156	\$3,813	\$84,143	10,726
NORTH CAROLINA (Totals)	771,654	\$4,193,637	\$2,285,260	\$20,702	\$344,205	\$93,656	\$48,884	\$1,400,930	197,386

Notes:

* Veteran population estimates, as of September 30, 2012, are produced by the VA Office of the Actuary (VetPop 2011).

Prior to FY 08, "Loan Guaranty" expenditures were included in the Education & Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment

** Unique patients are patients who received treatment at a VA health care facility.

1. Expenditures are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars. For example, \$500 to \$1,000 are rounded to \$1
2. The Comp & Pension dollars include: veterans' compensation for service-connected disabilities; burial and other benefits
3. Medical Care expenditures include dollars for medical services, medical administration, facility maintenance, etc.
4. Medical Care expenditures are based on where patients reside instead of where care is given.

North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs Operations

“Working to make North Carolina the State of Choice for Veterans”

The purpose of the North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs (NCDVA) is to provide assistance to 800,000 veterans, their families and their dependents, in obtaining or maintaining privileges, rights and benefits to which they are entitled under Federal, State or local laws. Also, it “shall be the duty of the Department to train, assist, and provide guidance to the employees of any county, city, town, or Indian tribe who are engaged in veterans service.”

Core Functions of NCDVA are a combination of state mandates and federal Veterans Administration (VA) missions. **While the state of North Carolina has invested \$139 million in veterans services over the past 10 years, the state principally acts as a conduit and facilitator to the federal VA and DoD programs which in 2012 alone accounted for \$6.36 Billion*.**

- \$2.29 Billion in VA compensation and pension (4th Highest in the U.S.)
- \$4.02 Billion in total VA investment including, healthcare construction, education and Compensation

Furthermore, the military-friendly environment of North Carolina has resulted in 90,000 military retirees making North Carolina their home (6th highest in the U.S.).

- \$2.16 Billion is the economic impact of the DoD pensions alone and does not include ancillary business and work activities of these highly skilled retirees.

***\$6.36 Billion is the combined VA and DoD federal investment in North Carolina Veterans in 2012**

North Carolina's Commitment to Veterans

TEN YEAR INVESTMENT: \$148,117,088

Veterans Affairs & Advocacy \$ 66,339,489

- Advocacy via State and County Service Officers

Scholarships \$ 71,558,299

- Scholarships are for the children of War Veterans. Escheats = \$ 61,698,607 and Appropriations = \$ 9,859,692

Veterans Nursing Homes \$ 9,207,300

- Four Facilities that provide top-tier 24/7 nursing care for veterans

Veterans Cemeteries \$ 1,012,000

- Three State Cemeteries with a fourth in development

NCDVA AT A GLANCE:

NCDVA operates a network of thirteen (13) District Offices across North Carolina, a State Service Office in Winston Salem (processing hub), and staff in Raleigh to support and provide training for state and county service officers.

Each District Office has 1 – 3 accredited veterans' service officers and 1 or more veterans' service technicians that are accredited to assist veterans and their families.

NCDVA has 90 Full Time Employees (FTEs).

- ❖ 72 FTEs are funded by appropriations.
- ❖ Eight State Veterans Homes State Employees are paid by receipts.
- ❖ Ten FTEs from the Cemetery system are paid by receipts.

- 13 District Offices – from Canton to Elizabeth City
- File claims for all federal and state benefits for veterans and their dependents
- Train County Veterans Service Officers
- Provide assistance to all Counties – act as County Service Officer for the 10 counties with no county service officer and the 20 plus counties that are part time.
- State Service Office in Winston Salem serves as central hub for processing VA claims
- Provide hearing representation for all North Carolina Veterans that request our assistance
- Coordinate with the US Department of Veterans Affairs in resolving claims issues
- Work with all County and District Service Office responding to inquiries
- Training coordinator – provides updated required training materials for all county and District service officers maintain accreditation; continuing education credits
- Currently have 34 county and district service officers in training

NCDVA Operations, Continued

SNAPSHOT: 2013 Completed Compensation Claims by NC Veteran Service Organizations as Reported by Veterans Administration Regional Office (VARO Winston-Salem)

Source (13) Department of Veterans Affairs, Winston-Salem Regional Office

Power of Attorney Name (*Note the growth in the "None" category as more veterans go online to file directly.)	Completed claims	% of completed claims
Agent or Private Attorney	495	1.0%
American Legion	4,247	8.2%
AmVets	1,661	3.2%
Attorney Exclusive Contact Requested	28	0.1%
Catholic War Veterans of the USA	33	0.1%
Disabled American Veterans	9,484	18.3%
Marine Corps League	28	0.1%
Military Order of the Purple Heart	892	1.7%
National Assoc. for Black Veterans, Inc.	202	0.4%
National Assoc. for County Veterans Svc. Officer	74	0.1%
*NONE (Veteran files own claim on-line or on-base)	16,732	32.3%
NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS	11,405	22.0%
Other	1,177	2.3%
Paralyzed Veterans of America, Inc.	155	0.3%
The Wounded Warrior Project	35	0.1%
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States	4,181	8.1%
Vietnam Veterans of America	65	0.1%
TOTAL	50, 894	98.4%

Veterans Affairs Scholarships (Appropriations + Escheats)

Since July 2002, the North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs has awarded 2,528 competitive scholarships funded by Escheats* and 2,611 Scholarships funded by appropriations. The Escheats scholarships are considered "full rides" with the exception of books while the appropriated scholarships are more limited in nature. Scholarships pay tuition, mandatory fees, and a room and board rate at each of the 16 campus UNC system schools. Tuition, mandatory fees, and a set room and board fee are also paid for community colleges.

*In 2001, working with the Office of State Budget and Management, the NC Division of Veterans Affairs began funding the competitive scholarship classes from escheats. The competitive classes are considered as "needy and worthy." The competitive classes are first based on financial need and then on academics.

This scholarship program is for North Carolina War Veterans based on residency and within a certain class or category of deceased, disabled, combat or POW/MIA veterans.

- This scholarship program is only valid at North Carolina schools.
- Scholarship recipients attending North Carolina approved private schools shall be granted a monetary allowance.
- The scholarship is for 8 academic semesters. Effective July 1, 2014 the applicant will have 6 years to utilize the 8 academic semesters.
- Effective January 1, 2014 all scholarship classes have a minimum 2.5 GPA to receive the scholarship and must maintain the 2.5 GPA throughout the life of the scholarship.
- Beginning July 2014, the room and board charges will be limited to 75% of university current cost.
- For the past several years, all other scholarships and grants are first applied to the cost of education at the community colleges and universities prior to applying the NC Division of Veterans Affairs scholarship.

North Carolina State Veterans Homes (VA Nursing Homes)

The State Veterans Homes provide high quality care to veterans.

To be eligible, a veteran must:

- Have served in the Armed Forces (for other than training purposes)
- Have been discharged under honorable conditions
- Have been a resident of North Carolina 24 months prior to admission
- Be referred by a licensed physician and be in need of skilled nursing care

The General Assembly appropriated funds as required to obtain USDVA matching construction grants for the current four (4) State Veterans Homes. The USDVA paid for the majority of the homes' development. There are no appropriated funds for the daily operation of these homes.

State homes are fully operated by a private contractor **employing approximately 750 healthcare workers across the state**. Only one (1) state employee is located at each facility. Each state employee is funded by receipts.

These homes are receipts based paid for by the residents from various sources of payers – a per diem

is received for each qualified Veteran from the US Department of Veterans Affairs; other receipt sources include: Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance, VA compensation/pension benefits, and private pay. Private pay can include a resident's social security benefits, retirement benefits, military retirement etc.

Four (4) State Veterans Homes:

Fayetteville	150 bed facility
Salisbury	99 bed facility
Kinston	100 bed facility
Black Mountain	100 bed facility

VETERANS CEMETERIES

The primary mission of the NCDVA Veterans Cemeteries is to provide a free burial plot to a North Carolina Veteran and their legal spouse and dependents under certain conditions. The veterans must be discharged under honorable conditions and meet certain residency requirements. There are both receipts and appropriated funds used in the operation of these cemeteries.

The General Assembly has appropriated monies for matching funds for grants for new cemeteries and the expansion of current cemeteries. Most recently is appropriations of \$600,000 for a cemetery in Wayne County. The full grant has been conditionally awarded by the VA and we are moving forward with the process to establish a cemetery in the Goldsboro area.

15 employees are assigned to the three cemeteries, 10 are paid from receipts. The US Department of Veterans Affairs pays \$734 per burial of a veteran and provides a head marker. The burial of a legal spouse or certain eligible dependents cost is \$400. The US Department of Veterans Affairs provides a head marker for the legal spouse or certain eligible dependent.

Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery (Black Mountain)

2013 total: 363 burials
245 veteran burials
118 dependent burials

Coastal Carolina State Veterans Cemetery (Jacksonville)

2013 total: 288 burials
198 veteran burials
90 dependent burials

Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery (Fayetteville)

2013 total: 385 burials
283 veteran burials
102 dependent burials